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SERVED HIS TIME AT SEA

Youthful Experiences of Sir Walter
Runciman, Author of a Recent
Book on Napoleon.

Sir Walter Runciman, author of the book on Napoleon, "The Tragedy of St. Helena," is a Scotsman. The sea early fascinated him, and at the age of twelve he ran away from home, trapped to a northeast coast port, and engaged himself as a cabin boy. His duties made his position anything but a sinecure and the treatment he received in it completed his disillusionment with reference to this particular vessel. The tyranny finally became unbearable and he managed to decamp at an Irish port. His love for the sea, however, remained, and before long he was serving on an American vessel, where he speedily became well liked.

Unfortunately, his former captain, piqued at his successful escape, had him captured and brought back. Heavy punishment followed, with the not unnatural consequence of a second flight, which resulted in his getting to a boat upon which he served the full term of his apprenticeship.

At the right moment he left the sea for the business of ship moving and management. He has found time to write three books besides his newest, and to take part in politics.

CHICKEN ROAST IN SCHOOL

Iowa Rural Teacher Makes School-
house Center of Social Life
of the District.

It is as true as it is strange that in Iowa many rural schools are so attractive that city boys are sent out of the city to attend the rural school. I know one country school in which there are six children from city schools. A "chicken roast" is the latest school attraction that I have known. A teacher is making the schoolhouse the center of social life for the district. She does not like the idea of having a dance in the school, and she will not have kissing frascos, so she plans various social functions with stunts and games that have abundance of life, that are new, that are harmless. She does quite a little along the line of refreshments, and every one takes a part in the preparation as well as in disposing of the feast. The greatest success she has ever had was a chicken roast. It was in the autumn, and was in the school yard. It was a close approach to a barbecue. Every man, woman and child in the district was there. Nothing else has ever aroused such an interest in the Kille district.—Journal of Education.

Some Historical Stamps.

Many intensely interesting historical events have been recorded in postage stamps so that a large collection of stamps often shows in a most striking manner how history was made. There is a period of French history which is particularly interesting in this way because the stamps issued at that time so plainly show the changes in the ruling power from monarchy to republic and back again.

On one French stamp you see Mons. Barre's head of Liberty and the words "Republic France." On the following issue of stamps—those issued in 1849—Louis Napoleon's head appears instead of the Liberty, the words on the stamp being still "Republic France." After that there was a new stamp, on which Louis Napoleon's head still appeared, but the words "Republic France" were replaced by "Empire France."

Parrot Frightened Burglar.

The cries of Oliver Twist, a South American parrot, which was awakened the other morning by a thief prowling in the home of his mistress, Mrs. M. Osburn of San Francisco, while she was absent, frightened away the burglar after he had gathered up articles worth \$23. The watchfulness of Oliver, however, probably will result in his martyrdom, as the thief, angered at the interruption of his work, seized the bird by the neck and twisting it cruelly, flung him through a mirror in the dining-room. When Mrs. Osburn returned, Oliver was found on the floor in an exhausted condition, while an open rear door and the condition of the room gave evidence of the burglar's hasty flight.

Feeding London's Zoo.

It cost \$23,490 to feed the animals in the London Zoo last year, hay, clover, and fruit being the three biggest items. Among the items were: Hay, 161 loads; straw, 308 loads; tares, 1,188 bundles; maize, 360 bushels; rice, 1½ tons; canary seed, 150 bushels; shrimps, 1,835 pints; and fish, 28 tons. There were 218 horses, costing \$1,606, and 153 goats; monkey nuts, 44½ hundredweights; 97,884 bananas, 4,219 pounds grapes, 13,013 oranges, 923½ pecks and 31½ cases apples, 7½ tons mangels, 21,348 pounds potatoes, 6,896 quarters bread, 46,986 fowls' heads, 494 pounds sugar, 5,858 mice, and 3,875 sparrows.

A Boston Casquet.

Mrs. Kowler—But how in the world did you manage to hire this flat when the landlord is so set against families with children?

Mrs. Smart—I told him my children were all underground.

Mrs. K.—But that was er—

Mrs. S.—Oh, it was quite true. You see, at the time I told him, I'd sent the children riding through the subway.—Boston Evening Transcript.

PROUD TO TELL ABOUT CURES

Folks Who Have Been Sick Like to
See Their Cases in Print, Says
Doctor.

"Any doctor who cures a patient of an illness serious enough to be written up in a medical magazine has a right to feel proud of himself, but he isn't nearly so proud as the person he cured," said a doctor. "It actually looks as if seeing the history of their cases in print compensates some folks for being sick."

"Nearly everybody nowadays who has a pretty hard pull to get back to health asks me if I am not going to write up the case for publication. The mere suggestion that it is not interesting enough for copy nearly causes a relapse. As an incentive to recovery I have tried my literary skill on several cases that contained not one sensational feature from a scientific standpoint."

"The patients were pretty sick, of course, and thought they were going to die. Over and over I assured them that they had a straight attack of fever or stomach trouble without complications, but they were convinced I was only putting it mildly to keep from scaring them to death. When, just to please them, I finally wrote a history of the illness they were so proud that they had the story printed in pamphlet form at their own expense."

IDEA OF A ROADMAKER



Bone—Stone's girl weighs 200.
Cone—When she sits on his knee I should think it would be a case of "crushed Stone."

NEW YORK STILL A FUR STATE.

That the reputation of the state of New York as a fur bearing district has not been entirely lost and that that reputation so far as Wayne county is concerned is still being kept up is shown by the fact that approximately \$30,000 worth of furs were shipped to New York by one dealer during the fall of 1910 and so far during 1911.

Since the season opened last fall he has bought furs as follows: Fifty thousand muskrats, 10,000 skunks, 500 raccoons, 600 minks, 300 red foxes, 500 ermine, which make a total of over 60,000 skins. Undoubtedly this does not represent the entire catch, for there are probably other dealers.—Newark (N. Y.) Union-Gazette.

PRIMITIVE TELEGRAPHY.

An amusing story of reckoning by notches comes from Preston, England. The other day a North Country cattle dealer entered a telegraph office and handed a telegram which consisted, besides the address, of eight strokes. The clerk inquired if these were meant for figures. "Call them figures or whatever you like," said the sender, "so that they come out the same at the other end, and I'll tell you why. That telegram is going to my housekeeper. She can't read or write a word, but when the telegram reaches her she'll count the strokes, and understand that I shall be home at eight o'clock tonight."

PLEASANT COMPARISON.

"Bob" Davis, who is editor of Munsey's Magazine and the author of several plays, is the possessor of a sense of humor and a power of expression that is frequently picturesque. Speaking of a man who had achieved some distinction as a killjoy said: "That fellow is a great athlete. He can throw a wet blanket 200 yards in any gathering."

FOR THE FLY.

Flies may be effectually disposed of without the use of poison. Take half a teaspoonful of black pepper and a whole teaspoonful of cream, mix well and put on a plate; then place where the flies are most troublesome and they will soon disappear.—Home department, National Magazine.

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